977.3513
T644t

Toulon's 125th Anniversary,
1841-1966.

ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY

977.3513
T644t

Toulon's 125th Anniversary

HISTORICAL BOOKLET

1841-1966

AREA DEVELOPMENT...

an extra CILCO service for you and your community

Arousing national interest in this area as an industrial location is the principal objective of advertising by CILCO in such leading business publications as FORTUNE, BUSINESS WEEK, DUN'S REVIEW and WALL STREET JOURNAL. This advertising supports the work of CILCO's Area Development Director, who cooperates with your own elected and business leaders in attracting new industry.

Look at the ways this extra CILCO service can help you. As more businesses and people arrive, it can mean a higher market value for your home . . . new customers for your store or business . . . additional taxpaying businesses and citizens to share the cost of local government and schools.

"Area Development" means good things happening as your community grows and prospers — helped along by your friends at CILCO.

Central Illinois Light Company

where better living begins!

Toulon's 125th Celebration

Corporation Officers: President, Clyde Ham
Vice President, Rev. Joe Martin
Treasurer, Gerald Staples
Secretary, Jim Hellmich

The following people are the officers who have worked very hard on this celebration and keep it rolling:

Harold Settles----------General Chairman
Jim Hellmich----------Secretary
Gerald Staples----------Treasurer
Wm. Jones and Frank Hoffman----------Headquarters Chairman
Myron Arganbright----------Revenue Division Chairman
Jo Anne Williams and Frank Hoffman----------Participation
Donald Griggs----------Spectacle Division
Don Rumley----------Publicity Division
John Cover----------Special Events Division
Mary Dunlap and Henrietta Silliman----------Hospitality Division

BRACKEN'S RESTAURANT

Serving The Tri-Counties Area for 30 Years

SMORGASBORD
CHARCOALED STEAKS
MENU SERVICE

At Town's Edge - Leaving Kewanee South Rts. 34 & 78

Taylor & Son

KEWANEE, Ill.

Service to the Tri-Counties
For Over 70 Years

BOB'S INN

"EVERYBODIES PUB"

WYOMING, ILL.

Murphy Book Store

Your Complete Stationer

Gifts - Office Supplies - Machines

222 N. Tremont St. Kewanee

Lauterborn Buick Pontiac, Inc.

449 Tenney Street
Kewanee, Illinois

"Where Our Customers Send Their Friends"

Phone 4454

R and B WHOLESALERS

GALESBURG, ILL.

MILLERS HI-LIFE BEER

T644t

TOULON HISTORICAL NOTES

This year marks the 125 anniversary of Toulon, Illinois. We can not claim the distinction of being the oldest town in Stark County.

When Illinois became a state in 1818 this county was virtually a wilderness.

In the fall of 1828 Isaac B. Essex came to Spoon River Valley and selected a claim in section 15, Township 12, Range 6. He remained there long enough to cut logs and make the clap boards for a cabin, after which he returned to the "Shoal Creek Colony" where the trading post had been destroyed by order of Governor Edwards, and there passed the winter, in April 1829, equipped with two horses and a wagon laden with tools and supplies, and accompanied by his wife and little children, he set out for his home on the frontier, pausing for a short time at the settlement known as "Princess Grove". A short distance North West of the present town of Princeville. He there enlisted the cooperation of Daniel Prince, Frank Thomas, two Baptist preachers -- Elders Silliman and Allen, Simon Reed Stephin Franch and perhaps one or two others, all of whom agreed to go with him to his claim and assist him in building his cabin.

They arrived at the place late in the day and camped the first night in the woods, but before sunset of the next day the cabin was completed and they "had a house to sleep in".

This cabin was the first dwelling erected by civilized man within the present limits of Stark County.

In 1836-37 Stark obtained its full share of towns Wyoming, Moulton and LaFayette in 1836 and Massillom in 1837.

Not until Feb. 27th 1841, when the legislature of the state of Illinois passed an act to locate the county seat of the newly formed county of Stark.

It was also enacted that John Dawson, Peter Van Bergen and William F. Elkin, all of the county of Sangamon, be the commissioners to locate the said town.

At a meeting of this committee on May 17 1841, at the home of Colonel William H. Henderson, they decided to locate the county seat on ninety rods square of land, owned and afterwards deeded to the county by John Miller and his wife Charlotte.

COVER INSURANCE AGENCY
REAL ESTATE-FARM LOANS
Toulon, Illinois Phone 2531

Blank's Repair Shop
Blacksmithing Welding
Machine Work Aluminum Welding
Farm Repair

A & P FOOD STORE TOULON, ILL.

COLLINS IMPLT. CO.
Service & Sales
International Harvester
Tractors - Farm Equipment
Trucks - Garden Tractors
For Service Call
TOULON 4121

Wyoming Veterinary Service
Toulon & Wyoming
Toulon 2001
Wyoming 2561
Dr. Gront Dr. Fehrenbacher
Dr. Bennett

Compliments
From Mike & Martha
Bickner's "34 Club"

The name of the town was also decided on at the time of its location, no doubt through the influence of Colonel Henderson.

When Mr. Miller donated to the county this ninety rods of choice land, on condition it should be made the shire town or county seat, he reserved on the south and west sides there of certain squares to be sold for his own benefit, also the privilege of removing all standing timber on the town plot, unless it should be afterwards purchased of him.

The first sale of lots took place on the 14th and 15th of September 1841, one hundred and twenty parcels were sold at this time, these choice lots brought but $10.00 to $75.00.

The second sale of lots was held, April 2nd 1849. There were but thirty two lots sold on this occasion.

The town consisted at first of sixteen blocks, or fifteen besides the Court House Square, but has received several large additions, Whittaker and Henderson, lying North and East of the original plot, through which runs the line of the Rock Island Railroad, and two large additions by Mr. Culbertson, known as Culbertson's Eastern and Western additions to the town of Toulon.

No further addition to this town had been made until Coal Strip Mining came to Stark County in the late 1950's, when several new homes were built a subdivision on the western edge of Toulon. The same year the Musselman addition to the East was started and is being developed very fast with fifteen new homes and two public buildings, one the office of Stark County Dept. of Public Aid and one being built this year 1966 to house the co-coperative Extension Service and Co-Operative Home Economic Extension Service.

Toulon has not grown in population as fast as some of the surrounding towns, but can boast of a clean town with a very good educational system and five thriving churches and many people with a smile on their faces.

The first County Court House, a plain wooden structure built to meet present wants, was completed in 1842, and served many important purposes for the county and town, not only as a seat of justice, but sometimes as a church and school house too.

The old jail was built in 1844, by Ira Ward and was made partly of stone the balance of logs and rough hewn logs.

The present Court House was built in 1856 at the cost to the county of $12,000, has met our needs for one hundred and ten years and to some historians is still a thing of beauty many travelers have been seen taking pictures of this building and some of these pictures have appeared in magazines.

Toulon was incorporated as a village in 1858 and the village government thus established continued for many years. The first board of trustees was composed of E. L. Emery, Oliver Whittaker, Miles A. Fuller, William Lowman and Isaac C. Reed, April 20, 1909, an election was held to decide the question whether Toulon should incorporate as a city, a majority of votes were cast in favor of the change, and the charter bears the date of April 22, 1909, the first city officers were: Mayor, George Nowlan; Clerk, Arthur Shinn; Treasurer, H. B. Davis; Attorney, V. G. Fuller; Alderman, F. C. McClenahan, Thomas J. Malone, Wm. A. Newton, Orlardo Brace, Amiel F. Lehman and E. H. Lloyd.

TOULON ACADEMY

About 1882 some of the citizens of Toulon, desirous of having a school that would offer a course of study not provided by the public schools, conceived the idea of establishing an academy.

The institution was opened on October 12, 1883, with J. W. Stephens as principal, after earnest work and the over-coming of many obstacles, sufficient funds were accumulated to erect a handsome building, just out side the City Limits at the southeastern part of town, here the academy continued its useful work until it was incorporated into the public school system and made -- the Township High School.

The academy building was used from 1912 to 1923 as Township high school when the present edifice was erected. They have suffered two fires one in 1927 and later in 1942, the new addition of gym and ag shop were built in 1959 or 1960.

We have a very good school, with seventeen teachers, guided by the Principal Mr. H. B. Carlock. The pupils this year, 1966 number 193.

PRODUCERS MILK

"FIRST IN FRESHNESS"

PRODUCERS DAIRY

2000 N. UNIVERSITY-PEORIA, ILL.

YOUNGS SALES and SERVICE

Buick-Pontiac

DIAL 2081-TOULON, ILL.

HOME BUILDING

DONALD C. MUSSLEMAN

DIAL 3492

110 S. E. STREET

TOULON, ILL.

WILLIAMS

Paint and Wallpaper

"Your Decorating Center"
From Floor To Ceiling

We Place Our Confidence
In Toulon's Progress In
The Future

Phone 2001 Toulon, Ill.

ALICE'S BEAUTY SALON

Alice Harrington, Owner

Hair Styling - Permanent Waving

226 S. Union St.-Toulon, Ill.

Phone 2931

TOULON'S YOUNGER NEIGHBOR SALUTES

TOULON

ON THE OCCASION OF TOULON'S 125TH BIRTHDAY

SINCE 1887

La Fayette Home Nursery INC.

LA FAYETTE, ILLINOIS

SINCE 1887

The Acodemy opened for its first term on October 12, 1883 with J. W. Stephens os principal.

FIRST BUSINESS BUILDINGS

The first brick business block erected in Toulon 1872, it was built by John Culbertson's estate, or by his widow, Mrs. Pleasant Follett, the upper story was formerly known as Opera Hall and was used for this purpose until the Town Hall was built. The first floor was occupied at various times by different mercantile firms, probably one of the best know being Starrett Bros. Grocery firm.

The town hall block "we know it as McClenahan Drug Store", was built in 1876 by George Nowlan and Julius Rhodes, the top story was used as a town hall and public hall until 1911 when the present city hall was built, the lower or main floor has been occupied by drug stores, grocery firms, and milinary stores and is now owned and occupied by Williams Paint and Wall Paper store.

The Sundquist Block built in 1895, the odd fellows built the south 60 ft. of the upper story and it is now owned by the Rebecca Lodge.

The firm of A. Sundquist and sons Furniture store occupied the large room on the first floor, also 25 x 40 foot room at the North end of the second floor also the basement.

In 1940 this building was bought by Robt. and Grace Pyle and the New Brunswick Bowling Alley was installed, later in 1947 a billard and pool hall with all new equipment was installed in the basement, in 1956 Milton Ruckman purchased the business and building from the Pyles and is still operating under the name of Rucky's Recreation.

In 1891, the Caverly Block was built by William P. Caverly. The brick used in this building as well as all those built at that time were manufactured by J. P. Headley of Toulon. The metal cornice on the building was also a product of Toulon, being made by the Toulon Sheet Metal Ornamental Works.

The West lower rooms were Starrett Bros. who ran a big department store, the east side occupied by McCullough and Taylor, grocers.

The Sentinel Toulon's second newspaper was printed in the upper rooms. The Southeast corner was the Toulon Library and reading room.

Niagara Chemical Division

FMC CORPORATION

PHONE 2571

Niagara

BOX D WYOMING, ILL.

F. B. BOSWELL

KEWANEE, ILL.

SCHLITZ

STAG

CALVERT'S

WALKERS

Streitmatter Bros. Garage

TEXACO STATION

Phone 3871 Toulon Ill.

Marvine & Milo Streitmatter

MARTIN IMPLEMENT CO.

LaFayette, Illinois
995-3377

SALES AND SERVICE FOR THE FERGUSON SYSTEM OF MECHANIZED FARMING

WAYNE MARTIN
OWNER

WORLD FAMOUS FARM EQUIPMENT

STANDARD

WRIGLEY Grain & Lumber Co.

TOULON, ILL.

PHONE 4201

HEADQUARTERS
LEVI'S
OSHKOSH
WOLVERINE

Best Values At Popular Prices—

LEADER STORE KEWANEE

GOLD BOND STAMPS GIVEN AND REDEEMED
OPEN FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS

TOULON LOCKER SERVICE

COMPLETE LINE OF PROCESSING
ALSO HOME SLAUGHTERING

DIAL 2011 FRANK HOFFMAN PROP. TOULON, ILL.

DO YOU REMEMBER

Chautaqua
Your first car ride
The O Joy O Theater
The log cabin in the courtyard
Wooden side walks
The ice cream tables and chairs at Carl Mac's
When church bells were tolled when people died, as many times as they were years old.
Polly Claybaugh playing for silent movies.
The old hitching rails around the court house
When monagrammed shaving mugs, soap and brush were left at the barber shop and used for that client each time he came in
When colar boxes were needed for men's heavily starched dress collars and their collar buttons
When leggins and black stockings and long underwear were worn by all children
When all children walked to school, sometimes over two miles
When having company meant using linen napkins
When napkin rings were in vogue
When hat pins were one foot long and we used hat pin holders
When calling card trays were used on the parlor "center table"
When women did the family washing on a wash board in a round tub
When a three burner kerosene stove was a real luxury
When gentlemen tipped their hats to ladies
Doc L. L. Long making house calls with team and cutter
Carl Lehman working at his forge and horse showing
That fly swatters were made of old cambric window shades
Mustache cups
Mrs. Churchill Candy Counter
Walker Bros General Store
When Mr. Bowman had athletic clubs
When tags from different brands of tobacco, star, horse shoe, etc were horded and exchanged by children
"Youth's Companion" magazine
"Mentor" magazine
When iron toy banks were what little children wanted for xmas
When little girls wanted "Little Women" or "The Five Little Peppers" or just any nice story book
When two ribbons were a lovely Christmas Gift
When a souvenir sterling spoon was a perfect gift for the girl graduate
When the boys graduate's gift was a book of Emerson's Essays
When balsam blossoms were in every flower garden
When a set of sleigh bells was a part of every farmers winter equipment
The poll tax of two, or two days work
When commencement exercises were held in McClehnan Hall
Toulons corn carnaval and auto days
The first flying machine flys over our town

ELECTRIC LIGHT

On June 6, 1892, the board of trustees granted to Miles A. Fuller a franchise to construct and maintain an electric lighting plant, the life of said franchise to be twenty five years, Mr. Fuller and his associates went to work almost immediately upon the plant and the result was that on the evening of December 25, 1892, the town of Toulon was lighted for the first time by electricity. Some years later the business was incorporated under the name of the "Toulon Light and Power Company." The power house which was located on Franklin St. between Main and Vine is now owned by Fred Cole and is known as the Cole Garage.

Electricity for Toulon is now furnished by the Central Illinois Light Compnay, this same company in 1964 also brought natural gas to Toulon, and is now being used by more than fifty per cent of the homes and business establishments.

The water works came in 1910, W. S. Shields and company was given the contract for the erection of the tower and reservoir and the installation of the pumping machinery.

Gray Brothers, were employed in 1911, to sink a deep well and lay about four and one half miles of mains. The cost of the plant complete, including mains was about thirty thousand dollars.

THE PUB

MIKE and MARY

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

TO

THE CITY OF TOULON

Phone 2-9161 Kewanee

WALNUT CHEESE CO.
(Not Inc.)
TONY ZUEGER & PAUL SCHLUMPF, PROPS.
MAKERS OF 18 VARIETIES NATURAL AGED CHEESE
WALNUT, ILLINOIS 61376

Buyers of Manufacturing Milk
In Cans or Bulk

"A meal without Walnut cheese
is like a kiss without a squeeze"

SEALTEST

DAIRY

PRODUCTS

A. W. CURTIS DISTRIBUTOR

BLAIR IMPLEMENT CO.

Our 23rd Year
With Allis Chalmers

New Idea
Kewanee Manufacturing

PHONE 2511 TOULON, ILL.

TOULON GRAIN

and

FEED COMPANY

Complete Milling Service
Custom Grinding - Cracking &
Mixing - Grain Bank
Bulk Delivery - Oat Hulling
And Rolling
Corn Drying & Storage

SWIFT FEEDS

The City Hall, located on Franklin Street, adjoining the water tower and the old electric plant was erected in 1910, at a cost of $6,000.

The sewer system was constructed in 1914. A septic tank and four miles of sewer were installed that year. Since this time many new lines have been laid and more improvements made at the disposal plant until now with its treatment plant and lagoon system Toulon has a very good and adequate system.

John Culbertson, who located just outside the town plot in 1841 and bought a stock of goods, was probably the first merchant, he commanded a large trade in and around Toulon, built a flour mill and established a woolen factory, and was otherwise active in building up the new county seat. Another pioneer of 1841 was Dr. Thomas Hall, who was the first resident physician.

The first hotel was kept by Benjamine Turner, who also kept a small stock of goods in one of the front rooms. Other early hotel keepers were B. A. Hall and William Rose. Alexander Able kept a tavern on the north side of Main st., between Franklin and Miller sts. where the "Virginia House" was built by J. A. Cooley in 1849.

From this beginning in 1841, Toulon has grown to a city of 1200 inhabitants, with many new developments and homes, it has two fine school buildings, State Bank of Toulon, Toulon Public Library. Six flurshing churches, a large Kraft Food Plant, two large grain elevators, the county highway building as well as county farm bureau, Soil Conservation Office and A. S. C. Office, weekly newspaper, locker plant, three grocery firms, two fine restaurants, recreation hall, garages, filling stations, and other business houses.

Toulon may never be a big city but it will always grow in spirit if not in size, thats the way the founders wanted it.

INDUSTRY

Toulon has never been a manufacturing town. The first factories in the very early days was the Flour and Woolen Mill of John Culbertson, these mills were operated under his personal supervision and employed a number of people, after Mr. Culbertson's death in 1869 the industry was allowed to lanquish and finally went down.

At the close of the Civil War, John Maxfield began making brick near Toulon, James P. Headley operated a brick yard at Toulon in the '80's. Among the other manufacturers were wagons and carriages, cigars, harness and sorghum molasses, but the one product still being manufactured is that of whole milk and cheese.

A cheese manufacturing company was organized at Toulon, in May, 1875, producing 41,800 lbs. of cheese in the first year. In 1885 the plant was closed and the building was converted into a skating rink.

In 1932 when the Toulon Milk products company was practically defunct, Mr. Axel Madsen came to Toulon from Plymouth, Wisconsin, he believed in the dairy cow, and had the foresight to make plans, import dairy cows, start the movement of milk routes and started the organized manufacturing of cheese and butter, soon adding; Tiskilwa and Tonica to his holdings his brand became the triple T. In early 1940's local operation had out-grown all the small plant facilities even with round the clock operations, and Mr. Madsen sold his plants to Kraft Foods Company.

Mr. J. L. Kraft, the founder of the giant food processing industry, was one of eleven children of a Canadian family. He sold imported European cheeses. One of his customers was the future governor of Illinois, Henry Horner.

In 1914, at the start of World War I, his source of imported cheese was curtailed. This was the year he founded the J. L. Kraft and Brothers Company and decided to establish his own cheese factory.

The first Kraft plant was at Stockton, Illinois in 1914.

The present Toulon Kraft plant was built in 1945 and started operations in 1946. During the first years of operation American cheese was made. Many varieties of cheese have been made here at one time or another. Now only Swiss cheese is produced. Milk is purchased in cans and bulk from seven counties and delivered to the plant by independent milk haulers. Clyde Ham has hauled milk to the plant almost since the plant was built.

J. L. Kraft became a connesseur of fine jade and gathered a valuable collection of gems. His interest in jade led him to discover the only jade deposit in North America. Today, Kraft awards the Jade Ring to outstanding employees.

Mary Webster, the office manager, has been with Kraft since the plant was built. Byron Tonn, Grace Mortimer, Jack Silliman, Charles Catton, Robert Warren, Cecil Little and Axel Henriksen are also some of the employees that have been with Kraft for over twenty years.

The three fieldmen working with the patrons to help improve their dairy practices are Milo Shaw, Ernie Trent and Louis McDonald.

The three plant foremen are Adolph Rechsteiner, Max Hatfield and Ron Baird. The plant is managed by James Hellmich.

The Kraft plant spends approximately three million dollars for milk purchases, supplies, services, and wages paid to employees a year in the Toulon area, a major factor in Toulon prosperity.

Old Settlers' Cabin

A Happy Partnership

Your farming skill and Your friendly Purina dealer

We Offer A Complete Line Of:
PURINA CHOWS and HEALTH AIDS
for
LIVESTOCK and POULTRY
Grain Bank - Grinding - Mixing - Bulk Delivery

PRIDE OF FARM EQUIPMENT

LEHMAN'S FARM SUPPLY

TOULON, ILLINOIS **PHONE 4731**

PURINA CHOWS

OLD SETTLER'S ASSOCIATION

Organized in 1878, The Old Settler's Association has had annual meetings for the past 88 years. Two of these meetings stand out with more prominence than others. One was the meeting of 1898, when the log cabin on the public square was raised as a Memorial to the County's pioneers. Each family bringing a log. Madison Winn being the architect and at a meeting August 25, 1898 was Master of Ceremonies. General T. J. Henderson gave the dedication address.

The other meeting of more than unusual interest was that of 1912, when the Old Settlers' Monument was dedicated. P. M. Rennick, of Peoria delivered the address. On the North side facing the Main Street is the inscription "In memory of the pioneers of Stark County; On the west side the inscription, "In memory of Stephen A. Douglas who spoke here Oct. 5, 1858"; on the east side, is inscribed, "In Memory of Abraham Lincoln who spoke here October 6, 1858; and on the south side is the simple statement "Dedicated August 28, 1912".

This year, 1966, Joel Wright is President and William Lehman will be honored on the Stark County Old Settler's badge.

STATE BANK OF TOULON

The State Bank of Toulon was established in 1903 and the Capitol Stock was fixed at $25,000. The first officers were: S. M. Adams, President; D. K. Fell, Vice President; W. W. Fuller, cashier.

In 1915, this bank reported a surplus of $25,000. Undivided profits amounting to $10,711, and deposits of $275,000. S. M. Adams was then president; R. E. Taylor, vice president; E. H. Lloyd, cashier; George Nowlan, assistant cashier.

This year, 1966, the bank shows a surplus of $250,000.00. Undivided profits of $118,248.06 and deposits on demand $3,655,308. 74; time deposits of $3,001,050.71.

The present officers are: President, Earl O. Turner; Vice President, Wm. E. Turnbull; Vice President, Paul H. Walker; Cashier, Gerald C. Staples; Farm Representative and assistant cashier, Robert V. Fuhr. Directors are the following: Allen C. Hodges, Earl O. Turner, Carl W. Lehman, William E. Turnbull, Fred O. Heaton, George H. Ham, and John R. Jackson.

"MILLER'S POINT", 1839, Became Toulon in 1841

Above is an artist's conception of Main Street in Toulon in the year 1839, two years before the town existed. The drawing is the work of the late Gus Hulsizer, former editor of the Stark County Sentinel, early day newspaper, published in Toulon at the time the site was chosen for the seat of justice of Stark County in 1841. The only house upon the original plot of the town was a small cabin occupied by John Miller and his family. This cabin had been erected by Minott Silliman in the spring of 1835 and sold with the land to John Miller. The place afterward becoming known as "Miller's Point".

CONGRATULATIONS TO TOULON ON HER 125TH ANNIVERSARY

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our friends and customers for their past patronage and hope that you will call us again if we can serve you.

WOLTIL'S HEATING and AIR CONDITIONING

1101 W. Prospect St. Kewanee, Ill. Phone 2890

CONGRATULATIONS TO TOULON FOR 125 YEARS OF PROGRESS

CARLSON ROOFING CO.

DIAL 2277 KEWANEE, ILL.

LONG ROCK CO.

Agriculture Limestone - Road Rock

PRINCEVILLE, ILLINOIS

Telephone 385-4516

Congratulations Toulon On Your 125th Anniversary

Sears, Roebuck and Co.

You can count us - - - quality costs no more. There is quality in a name - - - Silvertone, Kenmore, Coldspot, Craftsman, All State - - - all Sears products you have known and trusted for years.

107 N. Main St. Sears Kewanee, Ill.

Toulon Grade School

SCHOOLS

The first school in Toulon was taught by Elizabeth Buswell of Osceola, in the upper room of the old Court House, in 1843.

Miss Susan Gill, Miss Booth and Mr. W. W. Drummond held private school classes in their homes.

The first school in Toulon was called the "Old Brick". Located near the western line of town, facing Jefferson Street, this was a one room building, the brick being specially burned by Mr. W. B. Sweet and the lumber was hauled from the Illinois River, when the building was built in 1846.

T. J. Henderson was the first teacher at the "Old Brick", Miss Booth followed him. During the summer of 1849, Miss Boyce had an independent school in the Masonic Hall when it stood near the Methodist Church, facing Henderson Street, and N. F. Atkins and wife were the first teachers in the Seminary which they occupied under contract on permission from the supervisors.

In 1860 two new frame buildings were erected in the northern and eastern borders of the town, to accomodate the growing numbers of primary scholars. This arrangement seemed to be very adequate for about ten years when the project of a new and improved school house, large enough to accomodate all grades under one roof and one principal, began to claim attention.

This school, where most of our generation had at least some of their education, was erected and ready for the school year of 1875. This two story building of brick structure was erected at a cost of $20,000 including grounds, furniture and out buildings. The building would house or seat three hundred pupils. The expense was met by a district tax, levied by the voters. The teachers this year of 1876 were Mr. Frank Mathews, Principal; Mr. Manning Hall, in the grammar school; Miss Sarah Berfield, in the intermediate; and Miss Pauline Shallenbuger and Kate Keffer in the primary department. The board of directors the same year were Mr. Benjamin Turner, Dr. Bacameister, and John Berfield.

This building was used until our present grade school was finished and moved into in 1950. The all purpose room was built in 1956 and the same year a hot lunch program was started.

In 1957 a two month kindergarten was started, now 1966, a full time kindergarten is enjoyed.

This year the enrollment was 300 including the kindergarten. With twelve full time teachers and three part time.

Mr. Paul Brown, principal, conducts one of the best managed and most productive schools in the county.

Congress Park Lane Inn

South Edge of Kewanee, Illinois Phone 2165

All Weather Pool Sauna Baths Sun Deck

Weekend Vacation Plan Available

M. P. BURCHAM

OPEN EVERY DAY

DX

WE GIVE STAMPS

SERVICE STATION

"On the Square - By the Square"

Dial 4521 - Bus Stop - Toulon, Ill.

CONGRATULATIONS

From

Wyoming Packing Co.

Wholesale - Retail

Kewanee & Wyoming

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 125TH ANNIVERSARY

"LARGE ENOUGH TO SERVE YOU BUT NOT TOO BIG TO KNOW YOU"

STATE BANK OF TOULON

Good's Furniture House Inc.

Kewanee, Illinois

Since 1895

TOULON FIRE DEPT.

The fire dept. was organized in the early 90's and Charles S. McKee was appointed chief a little later. A position he held until 1920, the first apparatus purchased for the use of the company was a second-hand hose reel, which was bought from the city of Galva, then came the hook and ladder truck, later Mr. McKee went to Indianapolis, Ind., and purchased a combined gas engine and hose cart from the Howe Manufacturing company of that city.

The company then, as now consisted of twenty five members.

Many changes have been made in fire fighting equipment until now Toulon has a very up to date fire fighting unit.

The present chief is Mr. Phillip Pyle with two assistant chiefs under him. First assistant Otto Paulson, second assistant Ben Parker.

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

Through the influence of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Noland and interested friends in the Toulon area, a Bible class was started late in 1960. Pastor Clifford C. Ecker of Bradford First Baptist Church volunteered his services to conduct these Bible Study classes on Thursday night of each week. Classes met at several different homes in Toulon and surrounding area.

In the fall of 1961 it was decided by the group to organize and start a new church in Toulon, Illinois. The Rebecca Lodge was rented and the first regular church service was held October 15, 1961. Pastor Clifford C. Ecker being the pastor from this date through May 1962. Church services were held in the Rebecca Lodge until November 26, 1961, at which time the church was moved to 223 W. Main St., second floor of the Packer Building.

By December 14, 1961 a list of twelve names were secured from those who wished to be charter members of the church.

On February 9, 1962 a special, notary approved, meeting was held, with Pastor Clifford C. Ecker as chairman. At this meeting the charter members adopted as their corporate name Faith Baptist Church. Deacon-Trustees were then elected and a non-profit corporation was formed. Application was then made and the church was registered with the State of Illinois as a non-profit corporation.

On May 1, 1962 a special business meeting was held and a constitution and doctrinal statement was adopted by the church.

May 3, 1962 Pastor Lawrence Mullinax was given an invitation to be pastor of the church. He accepted this invitation and continued to serve as the pastor until October 1963.

In June 1962 the church purchased the Carol Noland property at 120 N. Olive St. to be used as a parsonage, and future lot for building a new church.

WE SALUTE TOULON ON THEIR 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HOUGHTON CHEMICAL CO.

GUARANTEED TERMITE AND PEST CONTROL
LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

Call For A Free
Inspection
Galva 932-3040

102 S. E. 1st Street
Galva, Ill.

MUCKEY BROTHERS

Brick Laying-Plastering

Toulon, Ill.

Phone 4861 Toulon or 2293 Elmira

CITY FURNITURE AND RUG COMPANY

"Kewanee's Modern
Furniture Store"

105 North Tremont St.

Phone Kewanee 2380

Hughes Oldsmobile and Cadilac Inc.

"THE ACTION DEALER"

Phone
4447

Kewanee
Ill.

Heinold Hog Mkt.

Galva, Ill.

Call Collect

WE 22121

Tom Campbell, Mgr.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITY OF TOULON

McNEILL ASPHALT CO.

1021 E. Ninth St.-Kewanee, Ill.

Phone 2806

In September 1963 the church moved to 624 E. Jefferson where they met in the basement of the Robert Dustin home. Pastor Benjamin Jochums was then called to be Interim Pastor until a full time man could be secured. He served in this capacity until March 1964 at which time Harold E. Eckert of Chattanooga, Tennessee accepted an invitation to come to Toulon as pastor of the church. Pastor Eckert served as pastor until January 15, 1966. Benjamin Jochums was again called to serve as Interim Pastor for the church.

On April 5, 1966 ground was broken on the church property to start building a new church building. May 3, 1966 the basement and foundation were completed and construction of the upper story was in progress.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SOCIETY

On May 16, 1914 a meeting was held by students of Christian Science in Toulon to organize a Christian Science Society. The first Sunday church service was held in Woodman Hall on May 24, 1914. A notice of this service appeared in the Stark County News. After meeting certain requirements, the Society was recognized in July of 1916 as a branch of The Mother Church in Boston, Massachusetts.

In January of 1915 the hall over Dewey's Bank was rented. Christian Science services were continued in this location until October, 1953, when the Society rented rooms in the Cobb building, located at 113 N. Washington. Services are still held there at 11 A.M. each Sunday. A Christian Science Sunday School convenes in this building at the same hour.

The year 1966 marks the Centennial Year for the discovery of Christian Science by Mary Baker Eddy.

BAPTIST CHURCH

Old records of the Toulon Baptist Church reveal many interesting facts and highlights of the life of this church, which is still standing in the same location these 118 years.

Condensed here are a few facts:

The church body was organized in 1848 and affiliated with the Ill. River Assoc. The present lot was purchased for $137, and a brick building 36' x 58' was erected and officially dedicated on March 25, 1855.

Discord arose and the congregation divided; the 2nd group building a new wooden church -- now the Catholic church -- and separate services were held for 9 years. Reunion came in 1877, and the new united congregation began again to labor together in the Lords work.

Early in the morning of Sept. 22, 1894, the church was struck by lightning and destroyed; walls left standing. The church immediately rebuilt. Extensive rebuilding was done in 1915, and additional improvements have been added consistently through the years.

The present parsonage was built in 1898.

Elder E. W. Hicks, pastor for 19 years, and a tireless worker, also held services in rural area; at Saxon and Stringtown; the Jug Run, Ham, Quinn, and Winans schools. From these meetings came many members of this church. Mr. J. H. Winans organized and became Supt. of a S. S. which met in the Quinn School house for 20 years. Later when the Winans school was built, he started a S. S. there and served many years.

Early baptisms were held in Indian creek west of town; also in Spoon river, east of the former Jug Run school. The first baptistry was built in 1886. Candidates scurried across the lawn, south, to the home of Mrs. John Culbertson, for their change of clothing.

Covenant meetings were held on Saturday afternoons at stated times, and members were expected to attend. If they were negligent a few times, or were careless in church attendance, a committee was sent to call and find out why. It was not uncommon for such members to be excluded because of unchristian conduct.

Families prominent in the work of the church in the early years include; Culbertson, Thompson, Stickney, Packer, Winans, Price, Hart and later Griffith, Dexter. There were other families equally important, but as space in this account is limited, it's not possible to list them.

Presently as a church family, we are especially blessed in having as our pastor, Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Anderson, now ministering in their 13th year. Together, as we look back over the years and also ahead into the future we are reminded of the words of Paul when he wrote "I count not myself to have reached perfection; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus."

BRADFORD REPUBLICAN

Since 1889

*Hot News . . . from the coldest town in Illinois
*More "On the Spot" News than any other county poper
*Covering the events, local happenings and issues of Stark County
*Quality Commercial Printing when you need it

BRADFORD **Phone 2641**

McBroom Motor Company

"If Ford Makes It
We Sell It"

112 N. Lexington Av.

Phone 2107

Kewanee, Ill.

RILEY'S TAVERN

"The Best Beer In
The Country"

LaFayette, Ill.

C. L. Van De Voorde
DISTRIBUTORS

PEPSI-COLA

Kewanee, Ill.

What'll you have? Pabst Blue Ribbon

Dial 2207

MARTIN'S PHILLIPS 66

Service & Store

Gasoline-Oils-Greases
Auto Accessories

LaFayette, Ill.

Ratliff Bros. & Company

Kewanee, Ill.

Phone 2222

TRUCKING & EXCAVATING

ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH TOULON, ILLINOIS

St. John's Catholic Church, of Toulon, dates back to 1840 for its beginning, for then the Nowlans, Drinnins and a few other catholic families settled in the immediate neighborhood of the City of Toulon. Priests came here from Peoria and Lacon and mass was offered in the homes of the parishioners. About 1867 a mission was established at Toulon and was attended by priests from Peoria, Lacon, Bradford, Kewanee and other places for several years. On December 30, 1877, Rev. John Moore, of Peoria, offered mass in the Second Baptist Church building, this being shortly after the two Baptist churches in Toulon had consolidated, and on March 1, 1878 the present church building was purchased from the Trustees of the Baptist Church. For many years St. John's Catholic Church of Toulon was a mission of St. John's Catholic Church of Galva. From 1923 to the present time it has been a mission of St. Dominic's Catholic Church, of Wyoming, and has been attended by the following named pastors: Rev. James M. Fitzgerald, 1923-1941; Rev. Edmund J. Bratkowski, 1941-1962; and Rev. Bernard Dempsey, the present pastor since 1962.

THE METHODIST CHURCH

As early as 1835 Methodism was introduced in Stark County by a missionary sent out from Peoria by Bishop Morris. He made arrangements to organize a Class to meet in Adam Perry's home in the Essex settlement. It was transferred in 1841 to the cabin of Caleb P. Flint within a mile south of Toulon and a year later to the home of Jacob Prior in the village. Here in Mr. Prior's cabin Brother Wollascroft, the circuit preacher, led the singing and preached.

Beginning April, 1844, the Class met in the Court House where the first Quarterly Conference was held. It was decided in 1853 to build a church and within a year a new frame building was erected a block north of the present church at the cost of $2,000. By this time the church had resident pastors, the Reverend Lazenby being the pastor in charge. During the next 31 years the Methodists worshipped in this building.

Under the leadership of the Reverend W. W. Carr a new church was built in 1885 on the site of the present church. The trustees were H. Shivers, W. B. Nelson, J. DeMuth, Martin Rist, J. B. Cooley, W. O. Norton, Dr. T. Bacmeister, O. Brace, and D. Tinlin. The last three named were appointed on the building committee. The building which cost $7,000 was dedicated Dec. 13, 1885. The architecture of the new church was traditional with a high spire and high backed, straight pews, some of which were cushioned by families who sat in them every Sunday. Mrs. Stewart had a special chair below and beside the pulpit where she sat in dignity with her ear trumpet.

In 1920 a committee composed of J. W. Sundquist, A. E. Sundquist, F. E. Cole, Clyde Shults, and Frank Martin, was empowered to build a new church. The pastor was the Reverend Fletcher DeClark. July 24, 1921, the new building was dedicated. Then came the depression. By 1938 the building debt was removed. The present church has been the scene of two anniversaries. The ninetieth was when the Reverend D. J. Geach was the minister. The Reverend R. T. Ballew, a former pastor, 1909-1914, was the speaker. In 1941 the Hundredth Anniversary was celebrated during the pastorate of the Reverend W. F. Powell.

During the past 25 years the church has continued to grow and has undertaken various tasks relative to spiritual growth and improvement of church facilities. The pastoral leadership of this period was given by P. Henry Lotz, Melvin Beger, E. B. Morton, William Howard Baker, John H. Curtis and Joseph Martin, during whose ministry the One Hundred Twenty-fifth anniversary is being observed. The real history of a church should be more than an account of buildings, but of the people who are the church and whose activities keep it alive. It is to be hoped that the next 75 years will see increased spiritual growth and a greater application of Christian principles to the life of this community.

HISTORY OF THE TOULON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

On November 29, 1966, the Toulon Congregational Church will be 120 years old, as a fully organized church. Previous to formal organization there was a group, properly called a Congregational Society, meeting at or near Toulon comtemporary with the Methodist classes meeting in and about this area. This church owes its existence to the labours of a Home Missionary Pastor from the East, the Rev. S. G. Wright, a relative of the Wright family who made their home in Toulon. This church is fortunate in its singularly complete record of its history

as the Clerk's books still in use today contains the minutes of every business meeting from the November 29, 1846 organization meeting up to the present time, duly signed by the Pastor or Clerk or both. This record is supplemented by the journal kept by Rev. Wright of his busy labours, his trials and tribulations, as he preached here and there, at various points in Stark County and outlying points.

From 1840 on, he had preaching appointments here or near here and from 1843 on he makes record of regular preaching appointments with the group at Toulon held either at the Court House or at the homes of members. In 1842 he preached 170 sermons and traveled 2,166 miles; in 1843, 200 sermons and 2,353 miles; in 1844, 180 sermons and 3,103 miles; and all these miles were covered on horseback or by wagon. His salary from the Home Missionary Society averaged about $300 per year and this sum was eked out by products from a few acres of land that he bought and farmed himself. So all this tremendous amount of labour was accomplished at the cost of personal discomfort and self denial to himself and his family that would appall the people of today.

A few extracts from his journal give a better idea of his life of toil and self-sacrifice in these pioneer days when our midwest area was more frontier than anything else:

"Dec. 24, 1841 - Started for Walnut Creek; there had been a great rain, the Creek was swimming; -- had much difficulty in crossing the branch above Trickle's Mill; had to break ice for nearly an hour, and to go around by Fraker's Grove in order to get to the bridge below Centreville; preached at Mr. Foster's Friday evening, etc. - - -"

In one occasion, returning from Princeville, he writes -

"Jan. 17th, 1842 - . . . On my way back, found Spoon River over its banks, for a quarter of a mile or more, and the ice too thick to break; went back to Rochester" (Rochester was near the Peoria County line) "and made out to cross the River".

Again, he writes sorrowfully -

"Jan. 31st, 1842 - Find I have attended evening meetings for ten successive nights; feel the need of rest; can't bear everything, though I should love to hold meetings seven times a week while I live."

After a trip to Farmington, still in 1842, he writes -

"Nov. 30th - The country is fast filling up; where six years ago everything was in a state of nature, as far as the eye could see, now farms are seen in all directions and many little towns are springing up. Preached five times at Swan Creek."

So the journal runs on and on as he tells of his labours, funerals, sickness among the settlers, his own family and himself sick with fever, as he tries to help others, his house so cold the ink freezes in his pen as he writes. Then on Nov. 6th, 1846, he writes of a plan to organize a Congregational Church at Toulon, on the last Sabbath of the month. The following is the entry that tells of this event.

"Dec. 1st - On Sabbath (Nov. 29th) Brother Park was with me at Toulon and we organized a church of nine members. It was a solemn time. The house was full and I hope a good impression was made."

The first record in the Clerk's book of the new church reaffirms the above entry. It is to the seven members of the Rhodes family, of this group of nine, that the window back of the choir loft in the present church is dedicated, the gift of their descendants. The other two members were Mr. and Mrs. Giles C. Dana, who moved away from the community at an early date.

Slowly, very slowly, grew the little church, at first under the patient leadership of this Rev. Wright, who became its first Pastor. The country was new its people were poor, but, out of their little, they gave, and by 1849 it seemed to be quite firmly established, strong enough to erect the first church edifice, of any denomination, in Stark County. On Dec. 13, 1851, the first meeting was held in this new building. It was unpainted; the stone foundation was incomplete and since some of these early settlers let their hogs run at large these hogs gathered under the building and accompanied the services with their grunts and squeals, to the delight of the children; the walls had only one coat of plaster; and the room was furnished with rough boards and planks on supports for seating.

In 1855, Rev. Wright, feeling the church was now firmly on its feet, resigned that he might go on with his missionary work, in the area to the Northwest, and Rev. R. C. Dunn succeeded him. The twelve years he spent here were much like those of Rev. Wright. Both men were deeply interested in everything for the good of the community, in roads, bringing the dirt road in, public works, schools, literary matters, and above all in the abolition of slavery. Indeed it was the preaching against slavery that held back the growth of the little church in its earliest days, but by and by ideas changed, of course. This kind and gentle Rev. Dunn resigned, due to ill health, and he is buried here in our Toulon cemetery. It is to him that the window on the west wall of the present church sanctuary is dedicated, the gift of his family.

In the 1860's, this church knew all the griefs and burdens of the Civil War. At one time, there was not a single able-bodied man left in the congregation. All were in the battle lines. Judge W. W. Wright I, father of W. W. Wright II, and grandfather of the present Joel Wright living here now, was a captain in this War. It is in memory of Judge W. W. Wright I and his brother-in-law, Rev. R. L. McCord, the third pastor of this church, beloved Christians of this church, that the window on the north wall of the sanctuary is dedicated, by his family.

After the war, there were quiet, peaceful years and the church grew year after year, not by

leaps and bounds, but gradually. By and by its members felt they needed more room for its various activities and the second church building came into being, a comfortable, pictureque, frame building. This building was dedicated January 3, 1884.

The church continued to grow and then suddenly a great calamity came about. Early Sunday morning, March 2, 1913, the church building, with all furniture, fixtures and contents was completely destroyed by fire. This was, perhaps, the most spectacular fire that ever occurred in Toulon. The night was bitterly cold, the thermometer below zero, while a strong wind was blowing from the northwest, carrying blazing masses of burning material all over town. Thus the old frame church, home of so many precious memories, disappeared. However its broken hearted members gathered up their courage and, in a short time, committees were appointed and plans were underway, in spite of their pastorless condition, to build a new church. The present beautiful brick structure, suited to various kinds of work, with pipe organ and lovely memorial windows of colored glass was dedicated October 15, 1914.

The night was stormy and roads all but impassable (no paved roads then) with thunder, lightning and rain, but all available seats were filled and many had to stand. The speaker of the evening was Dr. Harry P. Dewey, noted Congregationalist, brother of our Charles P. Dewey, living here in town.

In the days, while the new building was being built, there were rumors of a possible war; then World War I struck, followed by the greatest economic depression of all time; and World War II soon after that. These three events were profoundly discouraging to this church and all its sister churches here in Toulon, but all came through. So now after the celebration of three great anniversaries, the 50th, 75th and 100th, the First Congregational Church of Toulon looks forward to its 120th birthday, November 29, 1966, with the courage born of experience, with many adversities in the past, to passing this institution on to those who come after, "not less but greater".

EASTERN STAR

Toulon Chapter No. 10, Order of the Eastern Star was organized under a charter dated February 17, 1871 issued by the Supreme Grand Lodge of New York, where all the early Eastern Star Chapters received their authority.

The charter and records of the chapter were burned in the fire of May 17, 1877, which destroyed the Masonic Hall, and on October 2, 1877, a new chapter was obtained from the Grand Chapter of Illinois. In 1915 the Chapter numbered over one hundred members. At the present time we have around two hundred members. Our chapter is proud to have twelve 50-year members, forty three Past Matrons, fourteen Past Patrons, and four Grand Lecturers.

One of our Past Matrons, Kathryn Lowman Brace, served our Chapter from 1921 to 1957 as Secretary.

TOULON WOMAN'S CLUB

The Toulon Woman's Club was organized November 2, 1878. Ten ladies signed the first constitution - Mrs. E. H. Shallenberger, Stella Walker, Ruth A. Turner, Harriet M. Blair, Eliza Lyon, Emily Hall, Carrie Rhodes, Lois Baldwin, Miss Sarah Berfield, and Miss Sarah Turner.

The club grew in members. In 1951 the Delphian Club (which had organized in 1921) joined the Woman's Club. These ladies felt they could better maintain the high standards of their club with more members and present more intellectual programs. Still later the Amateur Music Club (organized in 1919 under Miss Irene Nowlan) joined the Woman's Club as a Music department.

The Woman's Club has since added two more departments, the Garden and the Literary.

The membership is open to any woman in the community.

The Toulon Woman's Club sends students to Music Camp, Conservation and Art Camp, each year, cares and plants flowers in front of the State Bank, planted a tree in the Court Yard and promotes other projects in our town.

The club is federated with County, District, State, and Nation.

The 1965-1966 President was Mrs. Leslie (Cleora) Milburn. The 1966-1967 President is Mrs. Willard (Martha) Price.

SALES SERVICE

Settles Motor Sales

TELEPHONE 4751 TOULON, ILLINOIS

PHONE 2856

Kewanee Music Shop

EVERYTHING MUSICAL

110 NORTH TREMONT STREET
KEWANEE, ILLINOIS

WURLITZER
PIANOS — ELECTRONIC PIANOS — ORGANS

KEWANEE VETERINARY CLINIC

Best Wishes
To A FINE
Town

Compliments of

Kewanee Auto Supply

113 E. 2nd Street
Kewanee, Illinois
4464

Jim Milnes Auto Service

Chrysler-Plymouth-Dodge Trucks
Since 1932

Two Blocks West Of
Hotel Kewanee

421 W. 2nd St. Ph. 4449

THE STAR-COURIER

KEWANEE, ILL.

STARK COUNTY'S "BEST FRIEND"

WITH CHARLOTTE SEAY
AS OUR TOULON CORRESPONDENT

*FIRST IN NEWS *FIRST IN PICTURES *FIRST IN SPORTS

Dr. Hall office built 18– now rests on lot west of Toulon Public Library and is being maintained by Historical Society.

DR. THOMAS HALL

Born in England March 12th, 1805. When he was quite young it was decided to give him a thorough education and professional training in the direction of medicine and surgery. He received his schooling in England and at the age of sixteen was entered as an apprentice to Dr. Coleman of Wolverhampton for five years. The next two years were spent in London in study and practice, receiving his diploma in 1828. In 1850 he received an honorary degree, in Chicago, constituting him Dr. of Medicine.

When the family came to America they settled near Osceola Grove in 1837. When the new town of Toulon came into being in 1841, Dr. Hall and all his belongings, including his cabin, was moved to this town.

Dr. Hall practiced medicine for fifty years, none are left that knew him well, but the Stark County Historical Society is keeping in preservation his small office built shortly after he came to Toulon. In it are the furnishings and many of his medical and surgical instruments. Dr. Hall passed away in 1876, ninety years ago.

STARK COUNTY NEWS

Dial 2461

Toulon, Ill.

MONSANTO

Agricultural Center

"SCIENCE SERVING AGRICULTURE"

Phone 8047 Wyoming, Ill.

HOME JUICE CO.

"Quality Fruit Juice"

1120 W. Pioneer Pkwy.
Phone 691-0581 - Peoria, Ill.

Retail-Wholesale

Congratulations
To Toulon On Her
125th Anniversary

KEWANEE NATIONAL BANK

Kewanee, Ill.

Getz Fire Equipment

1615 S.W. Adams St.
Peoria, Ill.

Sales and Service

Fire and Safety Equipment

THE NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL LIFE INS. CO.

Ken Elliott, Dis't. Agent
Baker Bldg. - Kewanee, Ill.
Phone 3343

For over a century our Toulon and Stark Co. friends have saved millions of dollars with N.M.L.I.C. As dis't. agent for the past 20 years please accept my thanks for the fine business you have given me.

Hopkins Road Equipment Co.

Phone 284-2058
Dixon, Illinois
Philip S. Hopkins

CONGRATULATIONS
TO
TOULON
ON ITS
125TH ANNIVERSARY

Kirley & Sons

"Fashions For Men"
Kewanee, Ill.

TOULON REBEKAH LODGE NO. 117

Toulon Rebekah Lodge No. 117 was instituted at Toulon on February 16, 1882 by Grand Secretary N. C. Nason of Peoria, assisted by members of the Rebekah Lodges at LaFayette and Peoria.

The following officers were installed at this time: D. S. Hewitt, Noble Grand; Mrs. V. B. Thornton, Vice Grand; J. M. Brown, Secretary; Mrs. Howard Stanley, financial secretary; and Mrs. D. Chamberlain, treasurer.

The lodge now has fifty members. The officers are: Noble Grand, Hazel Thurston; Vice Grand, Virginia King; Recording Secretary, Rita Williamson; Financial Secretary, Myra McCulloch; Treasurer, Pansy Edwards.

MASONIC LODGE

"Toulon Lodge" No. 93 A. F. and A. M. was chartered October 20th, 1850.

This lodge has always been prosperous and harmonious and for many years it was the only lodge between Peoria and Cambridge. It is the parent of all the lodges in the County.

At the present writing, Toulon Lodge numbers 173 resident members, with the following officers: John Cover, Master; Duane Allen, Senior Warden; Kenneth Blakey, Jr. Warden; Leo White, Treasurer; A. R. Grieve, Secretary; James Mock, Sr. Deacon; Randall Fell, Jr. Deacon; Robert Silliman, Chaplain; Gary Whittaker, Sr. Steward; Lloyd Phillips, Jr. Steward; Cecil Little, Tyler.

AMERICAN LEGION

The first Veteran's Organization was the W. W. Wright Post, No. 327, organized at Toulon under a charter, dated August 20, 1883, with twenty five charter members. The first Commander was Capt. John M. Brown of Company K. Forty-seventh Illinois Infantry. At one time this was the strongest Grand Army Post in the county, having close to one hundred members. In 1915 they were meeting in the Masonic Hall and Levi Silliman was the Commander.

The Toulon American Legion Post No. 416 was organized in 1920. The first Commander was Ollie Colwell. They have been a very strong and hard working group. The primary purpose of the Post is to care for the disabled Veteran, his widow and orphans.

They own their own building west of the Court House square and this year have a membership of ninety six members.

The present officers are: Earl Cobb, Commander; Carl Lehman, Senior Vice Commander; Max Hatfield, Jr. Vice Commander; and Ralph Gerard, Adj.

THE PRESS

The first newspaper in Stark County was the Prairie Advocate, January 4, 1856, John G. Hewitt, Editor, and John Smith, Printer. In 1857 this paper was sold to Rev. R. C. Dunn, who changed the name to The Stark County News. After a few months Mr. Dunn sold the News to Whittaker and Henderson, who placed Dr. S. S. Kaysbier in charge as Editor. At the close of 1860 the paper was suspended.

In the fall of 1861 it was revived by W. H. Butler, who named it the Stark County Union. The Union was short lived as in the spring of 1863, The Stark County News was resumed by Dr. S. S. Kaysbier, who in 1864, associated with him, Oliver White. In July the same year Mr. White became the sole owner, several more exchanges were made, and in the year 1897 the News was purchased by Charles E. Nixon of Peoria and James A. Nowlan of Toulon, the latter becoming sole owner in 1904. The Stark County News was kept in this family until it was sold in 1964 to a Morton firm. It is still in operation as The Stark County News.

The Stark County Democrat was published in Toulon during the campaign of 1860, Martin Shallenbuger, Editor-in-Chief. In 1868, the Prairie Chief with Mr. Shallenbuger and Benjamin Seaton as editors was printed. In the spring of 1872 the Chief was sold to Dr. Henry M. Hall who changed the name to the New Era and published it until January 1876, when he moved to Iowa and Stark County was without a democratic paper.

The Stark County Sentinel, another Toulon newspaper, was first issued October 8, 1880, by W. E. Nixon and Thomas H. Blair. On the last day of April, 1881, J. Knox Hall succeeded Mr. Blair and in May, 1882, Mr. Hall became sole owner. In 1884, Gus Hulsizer purchased an interest, but the partnership between Hall and Hulsizer was dissolved on February 13, 1885, Mr. Hall retiring. Under the management of Mr. Hulsizer the Sentinel became a strong advocate of probition, which policy was followed until circumstances forced it to suspend.

For two years, 1876 and 1877, Mr. Olive White published The Molly Stark, a tri-weekly paper. Mr. White's paper had no filler, using all local news and advertising, which he found to be an unprofitable business and therefore discontinued publication.

RAILROAD

Work on the Peoria and Rock Island Railroad Company was commenced in the spring of 1869, and in June 1871 the first train arrived in Toulon. This was a construction train, but July 8th, 1871, the first passenger train passed over the tracks. In 1874, there was shipped from the station at Toulon, 200 ears of corn, 145 cars of hogs, 107 cars of oats, 68 cars of cattle, 30 cars of rye, 10 cars of wheat, 5 cars household goods, 2 cars of brick, 2 cars of hay, 1 car of flour, 1 car of mules, 1 car of horses, and 1 car of sheep. 251,700 lbs. of merchandise, butter, eggs, hides, etc. was also shipped.

The same year 154 cars of lumber were shipped into Toulon, plus cars of nails, lime, brick, stone and sewer pipe. 1,507,059 lbs. of merchandise also arrived by rail and the passenger business amounted to $4,492.80.

The elevator business then became a leading industry. Do you remember when a scene such as this was common?

STARK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Glen L. Borden

Floid B. Brian

Eugene H. Rennick, Jr.

John D. Rennick

J. E. Richards

Donald D. Rumley

Charles M. Wilson

Scene at elevator

C.R.I. & P. Depot

"Since congratulations
On this very special day
That's filled
with countless memories
Of the joy that's come your way.
Best wishes, too,
That in the year
This anniversary starts
You'll be happy sharing
All that's dearest
to your hearts."

MANY MORE HAPPY 125TH'S

BERG & DINES

PRESCRIPTION PHARMACY
KEWANEE, ILLINOIS 61443

"In Business For Your Health"

Midwestern Retreaders, Inc.

Dial 4820-Kewanee, Ill.

FIRESTONE
and
CARNEGIE TIRES

S. J. RINELLA

219-225 W. Third Street
Kewanee, Ill.

Wholesale Distributor
of
BUDWEISER - FALSTAFF
MICHELOB BEERS

In 1933, Joe Colgan started to work in the John Deere store in Wyoming and has been associated with John Deere ever since as employee and dealer - we invite you to visit our modern farm equipment store.

COLGAN CO.

Route 91 South-Wyoming, Ill.

GOODYEAR SERVICE

401 W. 2nd Street

Kewanee, Ill.

Phone 4469

CONGRATULATIONS TOULON
ON YOUR 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Shoes For The Entire Family

Henry Bros. Shoe Store

107 W. 2nd St. Kewanee, Ill.

LEHMAN'S

One of the oldest business firms on our Main street is the Lehman feed and farm supply.

The grandfather Carl Lehman came to Toulon in 1870 working for two years for John A. Slocum, then bought the carriage, wagon and blacksmith business, this business has been carried on by his sons and now by one son William Lehman and grandson Carl W. Lehman for some 90 years.

The old shop stood just north of the present store and was abandoned when the present building was built in 1907, both the old Virginia house standing where Lehman's building now stands and the livery on the corner were torn down at this time.

Times have changed and the wagon and carriage business has given away to the changing times, the business is now mostly feed and farm supplies.

STARK COUNTY FARM BUREAU ORGANIZED 1919

The Stark County Farm Bureau was organized in the year 1919. The first meeting on record was held on Monday evening, September 29 of that year.

It would be well to note that the I.A.A., statewide Farm Bureau, had already been organized in 1916 and that many counties had already been formed.

The first farmers in this county were concerned about "the high cost of living". It is interesting to note that even then they were concerned about the manner in which farmers seem to carry a lot of burden of our nations economy.

The first Farm Bureau members felt that by organizing farmers, farmers as a whole would stand to gain.

One of the problems that had to be solved was a more uniform price for hand picking corn. It was decided at their October 3, 1919, meeting that they would pay 6¢ a bushel for picking corn, and if the man had to shovel it also they would pay 7¢ a bushel.

By October 22, 1919, Stark County Farm Bureau members totaled near 600. W. W. Wright was elected President; W. H. Jackson, Vice President; Arthur Shinn, Secretary; and Mills D. Dewey, Treasurer. The first board members were O. L. Hatch, Dave Turnbull, Otis Montooth, J. A. Buswell, Ben Leadley, Harry Loper, Walter Finley, Bert Smith, Robert Galbraith, Gerald Snyder, William Gill, P. V. Colgan, John I. Colgan, Eugene H. Rennick, George Wilson, and George Scott.

JUNGLE JIM TRADE POST

MAIN STREET-TOULON, ILL.

BUY-SELL-TRADE

Quality Furniture - Discount Prices
Antiques - General Merchandise
Open 7 days 9 till 9 - Auction Every Sat. Night
FOR COMPLETE AUCTION SERVICE PHONE TOULON 6611

Juanita's for Beauty

401 S. Tenney St.
Kewanee - 2203
and

Vogue Beauty Salon

125 N. Tremont St.
Kewanee - 2540
Juanita Middleton, Owner

LaFayette Greenhouse

Flowers For All Occasions

LaFayette Phone 995-3330

Jim & Fran Ingels

BREEDLOVE

SPORTS-TOYS-PAINT

Kewanee, Ill.
213 W. 2nd Ph. 2434

RICHARDS ALL STAR DAIRY

Home Delivery In Toulon

Kewanee 9600 Phone

Value V&S Service
HARDWARE ® STORES

BLACKS & FLETCHER

V & S HARDWARE

101 N. Tremont Kewanee, Ill.

On November 26, 1919, the Stark County Farm Bureau took up an affair in the east room of the Packer Building's first floor.

A Farm Advisor was hired on the 17th day of December, 1919. He was E. E. Brown from Newport, Indiana.

It was in the early 20's that a few of the Farm Bureau members felt that they needed good automobile insurance. It was at this time M. Ralph Cox and others started writing insurance for Pekin Farmers in their spare time. O. L. Hatch in the early 30's, started as a full time special agent and remained on the job for 10 or 12 years. Country Companies Insurance is recognized as being a front-runner in the insurance field today.

It was on February 12, 1945, that Stark County Service Company, as we know it today, was organized. Previous to this date the company was in partnership with Henry County Service Company. The incorporating directors were John Armstrong, Robert Moran, Warren Hall, F. L. Dutton, Harry Morse, O. V. Blair, and Harvey Price. On April 19, 1945, Marvin Kottman was hired as Service Company Manager.

The Stark Supply Company selling Animal Health Products was officially organized in 1939 while hogs were cooperatively vaccinated back to 1922 and before. On May 1, 1966, the Stark County Farm Bureau board of directors were as follows: Robert Clark, Clement Cox, Marvin Dexter, Wilbur Dienst, Roy Dutton, Jerry Kieser, Paul McKeever, Robert Nelmes, Kermit Newton, Lynn Newton, Harold Plotner, George Slygh, Frank Streitmatter, William O. Turnbull, and Ray Wagenbach.

In January, 1966, LaVerne Scott, Osceola Township, was killed in a truck accident south of Wyoming making him our first board member to die while in office. Membership in Stark County on April 1, 1966, totaled 850 with 195,265 in the state of Illinois. E. Sidney Foulke is presently Farm Bureau manager in the county with Dick Finney as Country Companies Agency Manager and Ray Carlson as Service Company Manager.

Picture Caption: Glen Peterson, Reuben Peterson, John McWilliam, Robert R. Armstrong, and John R. Armstrong vaccinating pigs in 1922. This was the year that Stark County farmers banded together to purchase vaccine and serums co-operatively to insure a quality product at a lower cost. It was in 1939 that these farmers organized the Stark Supply Company.

LaFayette Grain & Feed Co.

Hardware - Building Material - Serum Vaccine - Livestock Remedies
Custom Grinding and Mixing - Oat Hulling and Rolling
Grain - Coal - Field Seeds - Feed - Fence

PHONE 995-3331

LAFAYETTE, ILLINOIS

DeRoy Booker

GRAIN and LIVESTOCK
HAULING

DIAL 2721 TOULON

HERB'S
66 SERVICE STATION

Toulon, Ill.

GAS
OIL

PHILLIPS 66

TIRES
ACCESSORIES

Herb Murray, Prop.

HOME
RUG & UPHOLSTERY
CLEANING SERVICE

IN YOUR OWN HOME

Also Wall-to-Wall Carpeting and Car Interiors

LEON E. SMITH

PHONE 3861 TOULON, ILLINOIS

THE FRIENDLY INN

HUGH & NELLIE

ICE COLD BEER
PACKAGE LIQUOR
SANDWICHES

TOULON, ILL.

GUZZARDO'S
NEWS STAND
CARD SHOP

HOME OF FANNIE MAY CANDIES

117 No. Main St. Ph. 2485 Kewanee, Ill.

Coles Garage 1907

Miss Anna Lowman and her 1913 class

PEOPLES
NATIONAL BANK
OF KEWANEE

KEWANEE, ILLINOIS

ESTABLISHED 1928

The Bank for All the People

MEMBER
FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM
FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE CITY OF TOULON, ILL.
ON YOUR 125TH ANNIVERSARY

LAURA FARMERS
CO-OP ELEVATOR CO.

THRIFT 'N SWIFT DRIVE-IN

Sandy's

Main street Toulon early 1900's

Old Toulon Academy and the new Toulon Township High School

Princeville Stone Co.

Ag Lime Crushed Stone
Custom Bulldozing

385-4396 Princeville, Ill.

Toulon's 125th Anniversary
Congratulations

My 25th Year Serving
You With Quality
Standard Oil Products

JIM SHEARER

Ph. 4921 Toulon, Ill.

HOME OF
RE-JOYCE
FOODS

There is a U.I. Food Mart near you . . . Shop and Save at

ARGANBRIGHT'S
SUPER MARKET
DIAL 4471 FREE DELIVERY
YOUR HOME OWNED STORE
LOW FOOD PRICES
Today! Tomorrow! Everyday!

SERVING
TOULON
SINCE 1932

CONGRATULATIONS
TO TOULON
125 YEARS OF PROGRESS
FROM

The Stark County Officials

Burt W. Eltzroth - County Sheriff
James T. Jackson - County Clerk & Recorder
Joseph R. Nicholson - County Treasurer
W. S. Perrin - County Superintendent of Schools
Mary Ryan - Public Health Nurse of Stark Co.
Carolyn C. Wallace - Circuit Clerk
Oliver Wilson - Ass't. Co. Superintendent of Schools

Bob McClellan grades the Toulon streets

Bill Hogle Mail and Freight Delivery

BUSINESS LISTINGS

Dick Brubaker, Inc.-Chevrolet Sales-Kewanee, Ill.

Sunbeam Bakers-Galesburg, Ill.

Hagers Stagecoach Inn-Route 88-Peoria, Ill.

Blue Star Foods-Bartonville, Ill.

Hub Ballroom-Edelstein, Ill

Valley Chemical Corp.-Pekin, Ill.

Al's Redi Mix Concrete-Kewanee, Ill.

Coca Cola Bottling- Galesburg, Ill.

Louie Dagit-Chevrolet Sales-Wyoming, Ill.

Osco Drug Co.-Kewanee, Ill.

Sherwin-Williams- Paint-Wallpaper-Kewanee, Ill.

Winans Electric-Phone 3551-Toulon, Ill.

Zarvell Bakery-Kewanee, Ill.

Catalpa Grove-(Berniece & Harry) Toulon, Ill.

G & L 66 Service-Ernest Olson Prop.-Kewanee, Ill.

June Mel-O-Dee-Record Shop-Kewanee, Ill.

PROFESSIONAL LISTINGS

Dr. Kenneth Ebert-Physician, Surgeon, Osteopatic-Toulon, Ill.

Dr. Erwin Frankel-Physician, Surgeon-Toulon, Ill.

TOULON'S 1904 FOOTBALL TEAM

George Fell, Dean Hart, Onnie Lyon Parker, Sam Stewart
F. G. Winn, Banty Battin, Movin Murrey
Forest Scott, E. H. Rennick, George Bennett

Toulon Womans Club taken at Kate Braces 1932

KIDD FUNERAL HOME

4181

24 HOUR OXYGEN SERVICE

AND

AIR-CONDITIONED AMBULANCE SERVICE

ESTABLISHED IN 1925

41 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE

HAROLD E. KIDD **J. MERLYN KIDD**

TOULON, ILL.

Kraft Foods has offered a steady reliable market for manufacturing grade milk for farmers in this area since 1944

KRAFT FOODS - TOULON. , ILL.

TOULON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS OF 1903

Bess Stonier, Alice Chase, Sam Stewart, Blanche Pearson, George Newton. Gertrude Sickles, Maude Anderson, Asst. Prof. Miss McKinzie and Prof. Baker.

DAVIS BUILDING 1890

Now occupied by Debord Hardware and A and P Grocery.

DINE OUT IN STYLE
WITH US

Good Food Is Our Specialty

ANDRIS WAUNEE FARM RESTAURANT

4½ miles south of Kewanee on Rte. 78 & 34

Open Weekdays at 5 p.m
Buck Specials Monday thru Thursday
Liver & Onions - Steak - Chicken - Shrimp

Special Mon. thru Thurs.

Catfish	$1.25
Club Steak	$1.35
Sirloin For 2	$3.25
Smorgasbord	Service
Friday &	Saturday

For the finest in Home Appliances it's

FRIGIDAIRE

from

George W. Black's

ELECTRIC APPLIANCE SERVICE

TOULON, ILL.

Backed By General Motors and Our Own Factory Trained Service

Davidson's Restaurant

Kewanee, Ill.

SERVING
STARK COUNTY FARMERS
FOR FORTY-SEVEN YEARS

Seventy-eight years after the town of Toulon was put on the map a group of Stark County Farmers decided that if farmers and small towns were to survive as such they would have to organize. They did so and have been vital to farmers and villagers alike.

We are pleased to offer our heartiest congratulations to Toulon and her civic minded citizens on their 125th Anniversary.

We hope that we all continue to grow together.

STARK COUNTY FARM BUREAU
COUNTRY COMPANIES INSURANCE
STARK COUNTY SERVICE COMPANY

Facilities at

Bradford **Toulon** **Wyoming**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA
977.3513T644T C001
TOULON'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY HISTORICAL BO
3 0112 025392405